Great Central Campaign

The Important Position of Kentucky and Tennessee.

By JOHN McELROY.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE BATTLE OF PERRYVILLE. Allows a Part of His Army to Fight All Afternoon With Overwhelming Masses-Terrific Fighting on Both

afternoon of Oct. 7 Buell was convinced of Oct. 8. that Bragg had his whole army massed;

With His Spoils-Buell Superseded by

some time. The 21st Wis., lying in of battle on the opposite bank, with the front of the batteries, delivered an aw- apparent purpose of an attack in force, ful fire at close range, but the impetus so I withdrew the breades to our inof the attack was too great for a sin- trenchments on the crest, and there gle regiment to withstand, and it was awaited the assault. been under fire, and renewed the at- kept sending me messages by signal not tack, to meet with another bloody re- to bring on an engagement. I replied pulse, until finally the battle ceased on to each message that I was not bringthe left, and Hardee began to watch ing on an engagement, but that the for an opening between McCook and enemy evidently intended to do so, and was on the right, and Harris's to Lytle's flank and drove him back. Attempting left. The ground occupied by Rousseau to take advantage of this, the enemy toward Chaplin River by the Mackville five years of his course he was a carewas largely corn fields surrounded by rushed against Loomis's Battery, which, road, apparently unconscious that the ful and earnest student, especially dis-An Inglorious End to Buell's Career—He high worm fences. There were woods having exhausted its long-range ammu- Confederates were present in force be- tinguishing himself in the sciences, and in front and woods and a small branch nition, had been retired to the right hind the stream. I tried by the use of graduating in 1822 second in his class. separating Rousseau's Division from about 150 yards in the rear of Russell's signal flags to get information of the that of Jackson's on the left. Stark-house. It had a full supply of canister situation to these troops, but my efforts Masses—Terrife Fighting on Both weather, trying to get back into his poleft, and now was the golden oppor-failed, and the leading regiments seemment he served throughout the Mexican with his Spoils—Brage Makes Good His Retent weather, trying to get back into his poleft, and now was the golden oppor-failed, and the leading regiments seemment he served throughout the Mexican with his Spoils—Brage Makes Good His Retent weather, trying to get back into his poleft, and now was the golden oppor-failed, and the leading regiments seemment he served throughout the Mexican with his Spoils—Brage Makes Good His Retent weather, trying to get back into his poleft, and now was the golden oppor-failed, and the leading regiments seemment he served throughout the Mexican with his Spoils—Brage Makes Good His Retent weather, trying to get back into his poleft, and now was the golden oppor-failed, and the leading regiments seemment he served throughout the Mexican with his Spoils—Brage Makes Good His Retent weather, trying to get back into his poleft, and now was the golden oppor-failed, and the leading regiments seemment he served throughout the Mexican with his Spoils—Brage Makes Good His Retent weather, trying to get back into his poleft, and now was the golden oppor-failed, and the leading regiments seemment he served throughout the Mexican was also be marched across the fields until he had yards or more sent in by those active prepared to meet the sudden attack tenant; three years later Captain. reached a point of the road which sep- young Michigan boys of Loomis's Bat- that speedily followed, delivered as it

ter and the line of Dick's River. At should be posted on high ground to-the same time Bragg was certain that ward Russell's house at the left. He bert's Corps opportunely, and helped vent for the whole day further offensive rebellion he was in the Northwest, but only one of Buell's Corps was pressing then rode to the rear to report in per- regain the position near Russell's house, movement on his part, though he stout- in April, 1861, was summoned to Wash-

the swarming masses of the enemy for ered the Confederates forming a line

Crittenden. He poured troops into this that I believed I should be shortly atgap. McCook ordered Col. Webster to tacked. Soon after returning to the charge forward with his brigade and crest and getting snugly fixed in the and Webster fell with a mortal wound, our left, the high ground we occupied in the common schools of his State. At Hardee secured a good position for a affording me in that direction an un- the age of 14 he entered the Military Misapprehension of each other's po- arated a valley of Doctor's Creek from tery, who had been trained to the high- was from the chosen position of the the Mexican War were rewarded by sition and plans controlled Bragg and that of Wilson's Creek. This was the est efficiency, was a fearful discourager. Buell up to the last moment. On the situation at 2 o'clock on the afternoon Hardee's men soon fled from the awful assault soon halted this advance force, scourging over the ground which they and in a short time threw it into con-Gen. McCook indicated where he left covered with their dead and wound- fusion, pushed it back a considerable before Perryville to fight for the pos-session of the precious springs of wa-and ordered that Capt. Loomis's Battery Col. Gooding's Brigade, with Pinney's it such loss of men and guns as to seridistance, and ultimately inflicted upon prosecution of his duties visited all parts

with the intention of passing on through to return and make a reconnoissance one-fourth of the men it brought into o'clock in the afternoon. in order to aid him I advanced Hes- eral in the Regular Army. cock's Battery, supported by six regiwhere an enflading fire could be opened mortally wounded, Sept. 17, 1862. on that portion of the enemy attacking behind them, and Gen. Gilbert, fearing unchallenged. that my intrenched position on the heights might be carried, directed me to withdraw Hescock and his supports and return them to the pits. My recall claimed. Brigade of Mitchell's Division mean- barn, west of the pike. while moving forward on my right to in such good order that we gained noth- in front of their company. ing but some favorable ground that enabled me to establish my batteries in position where they could turn their attention to the Confederates in front of McCook, whose critical condition was shortly after relieved, however, by a united pressure of Gilbert's Corps against the flank of McCook's assail-

ants, compelling them to retire behind Chaplin River." Gen. Buell's Report.

In his report made from Louisville Nov. 4, 1862, Gen. Buell, after detailing his march and his preparations for battle, savs: "The cannonading, which commenced

to proceed from any serious engagement, as no report to that effect was

on and terminated the engagement."

Gen. Bragg's Report. Gen. Braxton Bragg reported from

Richmond, under date of Oct. 12, 1862, as follows: "Not having succeeded in getting my army in its march on Perryville, but we supplies from Lexington to my new definally neared it on the evening of Oct. pot near Bryantsville, it was necessary During the day Brig.-Gen. Robert to hold a large portion of Gen. Smith's B. Mitchell's Division of Gilbert's Corps forces in that direction. Finding the was in the advance on the Springfield enemy pressing heavily in his rear near sions under Cheatham, Buckner and Creek, a tributary of Chaplin River, my Harrodsburg from Frankfort, I deter-

"Having on the night of the 7th

Brig.-Gen. JOSEPH K. F. MANSFIELD.

forced back onto the batteries. Though Hardee's assault was here stayed, he reformed his troops under cover, brought up regiments that had not yet brought up regiments that had not yet a mile distant to the rear.

A Narrative of Events Connected With His Morta! Wounding at Sharpsburg people, who knew nothing on, Gen. Gilbert, the carps commander, whose headquarters were located on a brought up regiments that had not yet hill about a mile distant to the rear.

By JOHN MEAD GOULD, Acting Adjutant, 10th Me., and Major, 29th Me.

born in New Haven, Conn., Dec. 22, Mr. Davis to add that he claims no check them, but his efforts were in vain, rifle-pits, my attention was called to 1803. His early education was obtained personal knowledge. He was immediately promoted to the Corps of Engineers, in which depart-His gallantry and efficiency during

Colonel and Colonel of Engineers. In 1853 Mansfield was appointed Inspector-General of the Army, and in the of the country.

on him from the direction of Mackville, son to Gen. Buell, who instructed him but at a fearful cost to itself of nearly ly resisted the enemy's assaults until 4 ington to take command of the forces here. On May 17, 1861, Mansfield was "Seeing McCook so flercely attacked, promted to the rank of Brigadier-Gen-

He rendered valuable service at Fortments, to a very good position in front ress Monroe, Newport News, Suffolk, of a belt of timber on my extreme left, and finally at Antietam, where he was It was bad enough and sad enough the right of the First Corps and also on that Gen. Mansfield should be mortally riving in East Woods we readily and to John Poffenberger's, and then south his batteries across Chaplin River. But wounded once, but to be wounded six.

> These pages will tell what the members of the 10th Me. know of the event, and that many of the trees inside the in and around "the great cornfield," the but first we will state what others have

was opportune, for I had up sooner got back to my original line than the Coned out as the spot where Mansfield was had been laid out exactly along the line

original authority for this place, which Joseph King Fenno Mansfield was is not far from B. It is only fair to There are several other places that

Why So Many Errors?

Why has there been so much difficulty in identifying the right locality? There has been no difficulty, none whatever, among those who knew the

who have poor memories. these pages, to see that very few except the 10th Me. would witness the event, as we were so nearly isolated and 10th Me. was on the east side of the almost hidden. We made very little ac- fence (see map), and some of our boys count at the time of what is now con- who indulged in loud talk were ordered tory of the battle. It then appeared to us as only one of the many tragedies in the great slaughter. Nothing was done brigade were near us, while the other the great slaughter. Nothing was done brigades of the corps appeared to be at the time to mark the spot, and hardly a note of the event was recorded.

Regimental Excursion.

In 1889 the 1-10-29th Me. Association nade an excursion to the various bat- Hawley. 125th Pa., Col. Higgins; 128th tleffelds in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Pa., Col. Samuel Croasdale (killed)— Virginia where the regiment had fought. Friday, Oct. 4, was the day of the visit to Antietam. Not one of the company had been there for 25 years, yet on arsurely identified the fighting position of to nearly abreast of Joseph Poffenbergat this juncture he placed two batteries seven or eight times in as many locali-on my right, and began to mass troops ties is too much of a story to let stand "10th Me.," at the time of the battle. We found that the west face of the all of which time-that is, from before woods had been considerably cut away. woods had been felled, but there was no serious change in the neighborhood doubt to my original line than the Confederates attacked me furiously, advancing almost to my intranchments, notwithstanding that a large portion of the ground over which they had to move was swept by a heavy fire of canister from both my batteries. Before they had quite reached us, however, our telling fire made them recoil, and solve the spot where Mansfield was had been laid out exactly along the line wounded, and all sorts of particulars have been given. Besides these, a man with a magic lantern is traveling through the country showing Burnside's Bridge, and remarking, "Here Mansfield was had been laid out exactly along the line of battle where we fired our first volley. We have since learned that in 1872 the County bought a 15-foot strip of land through the country showing Burnside's Bridge, and remarking, "Here Mansfield was had been laid out exactly along the line of battle where we fired our first volley. We have since learned that in 1872 the County bought a 15-foot strip of land through the country showing Burnside's Bridge, and remarking, "Here Mansfield was had been laid out exactly along the line of battle where we fired our first volley. We have since learned that in 1872 the County bought a 15-foot strip of land through the country showing Burnside's Bridge, and remarking, "Here Mansfield was had been laid out exactly along the line of battle where we fired our first volley. We have since learned that in 1872 the Country bought a 15-foot strip of land through the country showing Burnside's Bridge, and remarking, "Here Mansfield was had been laid out exactly along the line of battle where we fired our first volley. The spot marked A on the map is and the Smoketown road, and moved for the fight. dale Knoll, further to the right and hill through a field where several piles

ible, but repeated plowing since 1889

has entirely effaced it. Our excursion was entirely for pleasure; we had no thought of controversy. nor even of the enlightenment of the erroneous places to visitors. We defended the truth, photographed the position, but found it difficult, for several reasons, to decide by several feet upon the exact spot of the wounding.

It is necessary now to go back to 1862 and tell the story of the battle as seen by the 10th Me.; and as since the war a generation has grown up that knows nothing of the way soldiers are have been described to me in private is best to give a great many explanations that may seem unnecessary to an old soldier.

The Part Taken by the 10th Me.

The Twelfth Corps, Mansfield com-

manding, marched on the Boonsboro pike, late at night of Sept. 16, from facts. The errors have all come from "the center" through Keedysville to the ignorant, the imaginative, and those the farm of George Line (G. Lyons on It will be easy, especially for one standing on the ground while reading side of a fence which ran south from behind ours (or east). Our brigade-Crawford's Brigade, 46th Pa., Col. Knipe; 10th Me., Col. Beal; 28th N. Y., fragment, Capt. Mapes; 124th Pa., Col. was the advance of the corps, and marched a little before 5 o'clock on the morning of the battle, first to the west across the Smoketown road, and nearly 5 a. m.—Hooker's Corps was fighting enemy being south and west of it.

As well as could be judged, all of the

Twelfth Corps followed our movements, and halted to the right or left of the rear of our brigade.

The 124th and 125th Pa. were de tached from the brigade at some early hour, but at 7:20 by my watch, which may have been five to 10 minutes fast, the other four regiments were started

rear of our right companies; the Croas- He hurried us, first to the front, down and the Knoll, and runs past our front the "10-acre cornfield" when Mansfield beckoned us to move to our left. We then marched a few steps by what the tactics call "left oblique," but did not gain ground to the left sufficiently to suit the General, so Col. Beal com-manded "left flank," whereupon each man faced east, and we presently knocked over the two fences of the Smoketown road and marched into Sam Poffenberger's field. While going across the Smoketown road Gen. Hooker rode from the woods (M) and told Col. Beal, "The enemy are breaking through my lines; you must hold these woods" (meaning East Woods).

After crossing the road bullets from the enemy began to whiz over and around us. When well into Sam Poffenberger's field the Colonel commanded "Right flank," then each man again faced south (or west of south to be more exact), and we all marched straight for the enemy, whom some of us could see in the woods, close to where our Mansfield marker is now standing, marked M on the map.

Deploying From Column.

The 10th Me. was in "double column at half distance" (or "double column in mass," as some remember.)



Each line in the diagram represents about 15 men, all facing "front." this order we had bivouacked and marched to Sam Poffenberger's field, only that while in the 10-acre cornfield every man turned on his left heel and marched toward what had been the "left," until arriving in Sam Poffenberger's field, where a turn of each man to his right, or the technical "front," brought us to our original po-

Apparently 50 to 100 Confederates were strung along the fence (M) firing at us. They had the immense advantage that they could rest their rifles on the fence and fire into us, massed 10 ranks deep, while we could only march

and "take it." It was high time to deploy,(1) and Col. Beal proposed to do so, but Gen. Mansfield said, "No," and remarked that a regiment can be easier handled "in mass" than "in line;" which is very true in the abstract. Gen. Mansfield then rode away, and Col. Beal, hardly waiting for him to get out of sight, ordered the regiment to deploy in double-quick time. Everybody felt the

need of haste. In the execution of this order Cos. I and G, with the color guard, continued marching straight ahead at the ordinary step, just as if no order had been given. The men of Cos. F, C, D and B turned to their left and ran easttoward Sam Poffenberger's. Cos. H. A. K and E turned to the right and ran D is where, in November, 1894, through the woods; the low land in our west-toward the Smoketown road. As

REBEL POSITION AT BEGINNING UNWUUU Thomas and Crittenden MAP OF BATTLEFIELD OF PERRYVILLE, KY.

Harrodsburg to the stores at Bryants- to Chaplin River. During his absence action. Other reinforcements were comville. Bragg divided Polk's Corps, taking from it Withers's Division, which
he sent to reinforce Kirby Smith. He Chaplin River, and Rousseau ordered ing morale closed the contest. Hardee ordered Polk to go with Cheatham's the right of his line forward half a mile withdrew his men across Chaplin's the cavalry, under Capt. Gay, extended Division to join Hardee at Perryville. in hopes of getting possession of that Creek into Perryville, and the Union With these three divisions he was to stream. The enemy suddenly appeared army was realigned in its first position, the day advanced, but was not supposed attack and overwhelm McCook in front in force in front, and placing three bat- tion. of Perryville, and then hurry back to teries in position opened fire. Rousthe right to join Kirby Smith and crush seau moved the remainder of his troops the Federal left in that neighborhood. Up abreast of his line, and ordered Rousseau the heavy force of the enemy Cook's Aid-de-Camp arrived and re-On the afternoon of Oct. 7 Buell, rid- Loomis and Simonson to open on the struck Sheridan's Division in the ading with Gilbert's Corps, arrived at a batteries. Gen. McCook came back, and, vanced position which he had taken taining a severe attack, which he would point about three miles from Perryville to find a strong force of rebels in his front, when he immediately drew up his own men in line of battle and sent whereupon Mitchell's and Sheridan's Dimarch at 3 o'clock the next morning not receive this order until 2:30 a.m., Oct. 8, and was on the march at 5 o'clock. Scarcity of water had compell-Oct. 8, and was on the march at 5 o'clock. Scarcity of water had compelled Thomas to move off Crittenden's Corps some six miles from the line of march, and he was therefore several hours late in reaching his position on the line of march. The enemy made no opposition hours late in reaching his position on the line of march. The enemy made no opposition on the line of march, and late in reaching his position on the line of march, and late in reaching his position on the line of march, and late in reaching his position on the line of march at the enemy he found in front of them, and drove them back through Perry-ville, capturing two calssons, 15 wagons loaded with ammunition, and 138 prishon oners. Sheridan also advanced, driving the pright to this and Gen McCook rode off to long the control of them. the right of Gilbert. During the night to this, and Gen. McCook rode off to ing the enemy, but he feared to get too corps (Schoepf's Division) to move of water in a small creek about two McCook's line, as it was formed, had and a half miles from Perryville, and Rousseau's Division with its right near flank of the rebels who were assailing move a division in to strengthen the Rousseau's Division with its right near fank of the rebels who were assailing a barn to the right of the Mackville and his brigade to secure their possession for Gilbert's Corps. This movement was sharply resisted and alarmed Buell, and a little later a more determined attack a little later a more determined attack.

Rousseau's Division with its right near fank of the rebels who were assailing move a division in to strengthen the McCook. Wagner's Brigade of Wood's Division took some part in the fight and rendered good service, but the rest of which the corn was cut and in shocks, to the skirt of wood occupied by the 2d Thomas, who had come upon the bathaps, less than six miles, and before

was made to drive Col. McCook back, and 33d Ohio. The right of Terrili's tlefield with Crittenden, was directed whereupon Mitchel's and Sheridan's Di-Brigade of Jackson's Division held the to take a position in line of battle on right corps make the attack night came visions were ordered up to his assist- wooded hill overlooking Chaplin's the right and await orders. He waited ance, and to hold the position. The ene- Creek, and his left formed a crotchet there the whole day without receiving my was repulsed, but Buell feared that to the rear. Starkweather's Brigade any. the attack would be repeated by Bragg's and Stone's and Bush's Batteries of entire army, and he was quite nervous Rousseau's Division were posted to the about the isolated position of Gilbert left and rear of Jackson's left, on high until Gen. McCook began to arrive on ground, and Webster's Brigade of Jackthe Mackville road between 10 and 11 son's Division was on the left of Ruso'clock. The pools of water which had sell's house and in the rear of Rousbeen discovered were in a small stream seau's center. called Doctor's Creek, a tributary of Chaplin's Creek or River, which runs Chaplin's Creek or River, which runs from the south to the north, with the little village of Perryville at the point where the road crosses Chaplin's Cheatham Ruckner and Crosses Chaplin's was in the advance on the springheid pike, but as the enemy developed that he was in strong force on the opposite side of a small stream called Doctor's him at that point. Having arrived at Creek. The country between these valleys is hilly and thickly wooded. Gen. Hardee, with two divisions, was on the Hardee, with two divisions, was on the hill at Perryville and the eastern bank hill at Perry of Chaplin's River. It was he who had Jackson himself killed at the first fire. as a drouth had prevailed for many Mississippi, now under Maj.-Gen. of Chaplin's River. It was he who had tried to dislodge Col. McCook, but had not made a very determined assault, since Polk's forces were not yet up to help push the attack home. Gen. McCook, coming up between 10 and 11 o'clock to take position on Gilbert's o'clock to take position on Gilbert's met such a heavy fire of musketry and like the first fire. The formal his best to raily described for many weeks, and the troops were suffering so for water that it became absolutely nectoristic tried his best to raily them on the batteries, but fell mortally wounded. When, however, Hardee's swarming forces their distress. Consequently Gen. Gilbert, during the night, directed me to met such a heavy fire of musketry and push beyond Doctor's Creek early the control of the first fire. As a drouth had prevailed for many weeks, and the troops were suffering so for water that it became absolutely nectorists tried his best to raily them on the batteries, but fell mortally wounded. When, however, Hardee's swarming forces their distress. Consequently Gen. Gilbert, during the night, directed me to bett, during the night, directed me to be the first fire.

In the first fire. The first left, found his men famished for water, met such a heavy fire of musketry and push beyond Doctor's Creek early the

The action opened at 12:30 p. m. The action opened at 12:30 p. m.

The Attack Begins.

Gen. Sheridan's Part. far in advance of McCook, and retired, promptly to reinforce the left. Orders using his artillery with effect on the were also sent to Gen. Crittenden to

Gen. Sheridan's Story.

Gen. Sheridan in his Memoirs says:

"Much time was consumed by Buell's all that there was in Doctor's Creek beHarden reformed the broken troops up and she through the woods; the rising land covered" they came to "Front" and ad-Housseau's, of about 7,000 men, and Jackson's, which had only two brigades of new troops who had never leaded a second assell with fresh Jackson's, which had only two brigades of new troops which have been point to the save arrived and the batteries. The two could not hold the ground under fire, numbering about 5,000.

McCook's Faulty Management.

As usual with McCook, he handled his corps badly. He sent Rousseau to the front, but Jackson appealing to him to be placed in position as far as possible from Rousseau, the directed him to the placed in position and far of ammunition. McCook galloped from Rousseau, the directed him to the lack at the sound of the firing, and did cook. Putting both brigades into line, it is the constant of the surprise of the enemy, I think.

Housseau's, of about 7,000 men, and headed a second assell with fresh turn driven back the reactions of Polk's forces. The two data to visitors. Still another spot of the two our party when the 1-10-test were formed confronting each of the two our party when the 1-10-test were formed confronting each of the two our party when the 1-10-test were formed confronting each of the two our party when the 1-10-test were formed confronting each of the two our party when the 1-10-test were formed confronting each of the two our party when the 1-10-test were formed confronting each of the two our party when the 1-10-test were formed confronting each of the two our party when the 1-10-test were formed confronting each of the two to visitors. Still another spot dut to visitors. Still another spot dut to visitors. Still another spot our party when the 1-10-test were formed confronting each of the first with the weather and the batteries were formed confronting each of the first with some slight skirmishing. I found the visitors. Still another spot our party when the 1-10-test were formed confronting each of the first when the visitors. Still another spot our party when the 1-10-test were formed confronting each of the first with the substitute in the following

our telling fire made them recoil, and said to have been vouched for by a the "worm fence" 15 feet into the field. The 10th Me. was guided by Gen. as they fell back I directed an advance "New York officer of Mansfield's staff." Excepting as these changes affected the Mansfield in person. We had all seen of my whole division, bringing up my reserve regiments to occupy the crest of the hills, Col. William P. Carlin's by a sharpshooter stationed in Miller's features were "the bushes," directly in the East Wood, marked W on the map. C is where Capt. Gardiner and Lieut. cover that flank. This advance pressed Dunegan, of Co. K, 125th Pa., assured the enemy to Perryville, but he retired me that the General fell from his horse ters East Woods between the bushes being on our left. We barely entered Jan Pollonbuger ohn Widdlekauf.

ANTIETAM BATTLEFIELD-GEN. JOSEPH K. F. MANSFIELD.

and that there was in Doctor's Creek being taken for Gilbert's men. McCook's Hardee reformed the broken troops uning taken for Gilbert's men. McCook's Hardee reformed the broken troops uning taken for Gilbert's men. McCook's Brigade
ing taken for Rousseau's, of about 7,000 men, and troops which were in turn driven back with some clight chim back with some clients and some clight chim back with some clients and some clients with some clients and some clients are clight chim back with some clients and some clients are clients and some clients